

# Ram, Boar Performance Testing Program Accepts Applications

**UNIVERSITY PARK** (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center is accepting applications for Pennsylvania's performance testing programs for rams and boars.

At this writing, there are a few pens still available for the Boar Testing Program. The nomination period continues for several more weeks for the Ram Performance Testing program. Applications will be accepted for both fall born ram lambs born between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31; spring born ram lambs born in Jan. and Feb.

The rams nominated will be delivered April 10. They will then be given a seven-day adjustment period. April 17, the rams will be weighed on test. The rams will be weighed every 14 days and progress reports will be sent out to owners and requesting interested parties.

The 84-day test will conclude July 10 and the rams will have their average daily gain, lifetime weight per day of age and respective ratios calculated. The rams will be shorn, scanned ultrasonically to determine fat thickness and loin eye area, and undergo breed character and structural evaluations.

The rams will have a breeding soundness exam which will include a comprehensive semen evaluation on the fall-born rams.

After all of the objective evaluations, approximately 75 percent of the rams are selected to be offered in Pennsylvania's Performance Tested Ram Sale. This year's Pennsylvania's 23rd Annual Performance Tested Ram Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 4. The ram sale will be held in conjunction with an invitational ewe sale and the Pennsylvania Sheep Producers Field Day at Penn State's Ag Arena.

A pen of three boars from one sire and from one or two litters are delivered weighing 40-65 pounds. The boars must be born between Jan. 1 and Feb. 9. The pigs are given a 7-14 day adjustment period, then weighed on test.

While on test, the boars are weighed every 14 days until the pen's average weight is 250 pounds. The pen's feed efficiency will be calculated and the boars will be scanned ultrasonically to determine fat thickness and loin eye area. The boars must meet minimum requirements for structural correctness, soundness of movement, and breeding soundness.

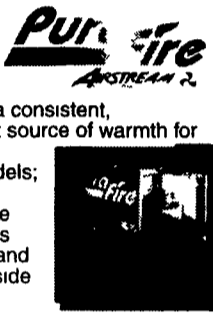
Pennsylvania's 26th Performance Tested Boar Sale is slated for Wednesday evening, Aug. 15. This is scheduled to coincide with Penn State's Ag Progress Days.

For more information on Pennsylvania's Performance testing programs or to nominate rams or boars please contact, Glenn Eberly, director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16803. Phone: (814) 238-2527 or (814) 865-5857 to leave a message or send a fax.

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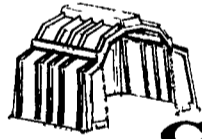
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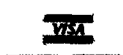
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